SIRIUS Number 14 $2.50 US TERI SUE

Wandering Star

Wandering Star

TERI SUE WOOD CREATOR, WRITER, AND ARTIST • PRESTON A. SWEET PROJECT LEADER • TRULAWNA FRANSENE VILLALOBOS ARTISTIC ASSISTANT

My, my—what an interesting day to be writing my editorial. Behind me, the nice Terminex man is happily drilling holes in the concrete, lots of them, in hopes to terminate the wee, little termite problem we have in the new house. Aaah, theres nothing in the world quite so soothing as the sound of holes being drilled in concrete at 9:00 am in the morning. But, hey, that reminds me. Guess what? I've moved again. Quite suddenly and unexpectedly, actually. And I learned a valuable lesson in the process, which was: It is a bad thing if your land lord is getting foreclosure notices on your house. It is a bad thing even if your landlord assures you that it's nothing to worry about, and that it's all under control. It is the sort of bad thing that leaves a note on your door, the day after you return home from the APE Con, saying "Eviction Notice, you have two weeks to vacate the property." But, ah well. It all did work out in the end. No little thanks to the gang down at Sirius who went far beyond the call of duty to help me out when I called them, late that afternoon, more than a little peeshed out. And here I am, in my pretty new home. An architect built it for himself way back some pity years ago, so it's quite charming, inside and out. And it has a huge back yard, with grass this time, and a landscaped front yard with lotsa rose bushes and stuff. And of course a fireplace. I've been just dying for a fireplace my entire life. So anyway, I love the house. I truly do. But, there is this one little thing...

Our neighbors are dead.

It seems that on the other side of the innocent looking six foot high brick wall, that runs along the right side of the entire length of our back yard, is the local cemetery. Funny how you could miss something like that when you're checking out a new house, huh? But hey, on the up-side, they're quiet neighbors. No wild, drunken parties at 2:00 am, and they don't complain when the dogs bark at night. (But.... uh, why do the dogs bark at night?) Hey! I gotta idea! Why don'cha all come on over, and we'll have a slumber-party out in the back yard! Yeah! I'll hook up the T.V. and the V.C.R. and we'll watch NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD, and DAY OF THE DEAD. What da ya say? I'll bring the onion dip? They're coming to get you, Teri Sue...' Bwah hah hah hah hah! Sigh, do I have an interesting life, or what? Well, maybe it'll help get me in the mood for spooky stuff when I start writing DARKLIGHT. You know, I've been hearing that a lot of you have been wondering why I've been adding the "Sue" to my name recently. Well, the reason is far too dark and twisted to reveal, so tuff cookies, folks. But, feel free to come up with your own deep, dark reasons for the change in my name. I'd love to hear 'em.

Lah lah lah. Hey, do you all remember a little ashcan comic I mentioned in my editorial in Book Nine? It was called PAKKIN'S LANO to be specific. Well, it'll be hitting the stands as a real life comic book very soon, so run out and hunt down a copy. If you like BONE you won't regret it. Gary L. Shipman, who does the book, is a wonderful artist and story-teller. I've seen the first three ashcans, and I am honestly hanging on the edge of my seat to find out what happens next. (If you're reading this, Gary- Bravo, dude!) In other news, I've received quite a few letters since Book Eleven's editorial, on the subject of dyslexia. The best way to answer your questions, I think, is to suggest a book on the subject, that I thought was quite good. (got a pencil? Okay, it's THE GIFT OF DYSLEXIA. Now, I doubt that you'll find it at your local book store, but they could probably special-order it for ya. And of course, there's always the public library. For those of ya that asked how I was clued into the fact I was dyslexic myself, well, I found out that one of the big, red, flashing signs for it was not being able to retain reading material. For me, back in the school days (I am quite a bit better at it today, thank goodness!), the words would go into my head, but as sentences, they made no sense to me. It was kinda like reading a foreign language... And it was extremely frustrating. I did find something else that might interest ya, whether you're dyslexic or not. And that's the recorded books catalog, they specialize in unabridged books, which had me spinning around in circles from pure joy when I discovered them. Give them a call at 1-800-638-1304 and they'll send ya a copy of their most recent catalog right away. Well, I think I've babbled on long enough. Go grab a big ol' cup of hot chocolate, a comfortable chair, and read my wee little story now, okay?

See ya,

Teri Sue Wood

WANDERING STAR Vol. I #14. FIRST PRINTING. Published by SIRIUS Entertainment, Inc. Lawrence Sarbmone, President. Robb Haron, Publisher. Joseph Linser, Art Director. Correspondence: P.O. Box 128, Stanhope NJ 07874. WANDERING STAR © 1996 Teri Sue Wood. Violators will be evicted from their homes, and forced to live in a cardboard box in my back yard, next to the brick wall. Don't worry. You won't be lonely. Bwah hah hah hah! . SIRIUS & the DogStar logo are trademark and copyright SIRIUS Entertainment, Inc. All rights reserved. Any similarity to persons living or dead or temporarily reanimated from the dead is purely coincidental.

BOY, THAT RAIN IS REALLY COMING DOWN.

YOU KNOW,

I THINK I'M GOING TO FIND A LITTLE HOUSE IN THE VALLEY, WITH A LITTLE PORCH IN THE BACKYARD.

WHERE I CAN JUST SIT...

...AND WATCH THE RAIN...

...AND MAYBE SIP A CUP OF HOT CHOCOLATE

APARTMENTS JUST SEEM TO DISTANCE YOU FROM NATURE.

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, ISN'T IT?

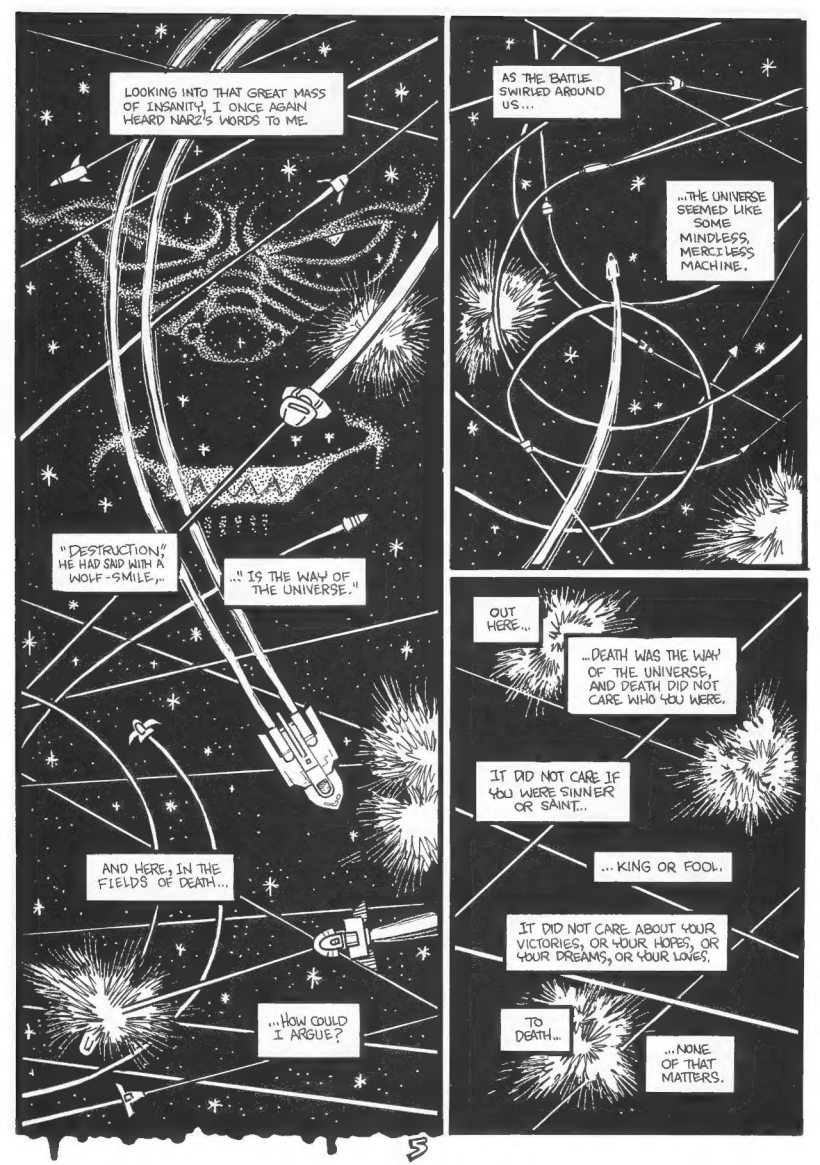
HOW ALL OF THIS BEGAN BECAUSE MY FATHER WANTED A PLANET FREE OF POLLUTION.

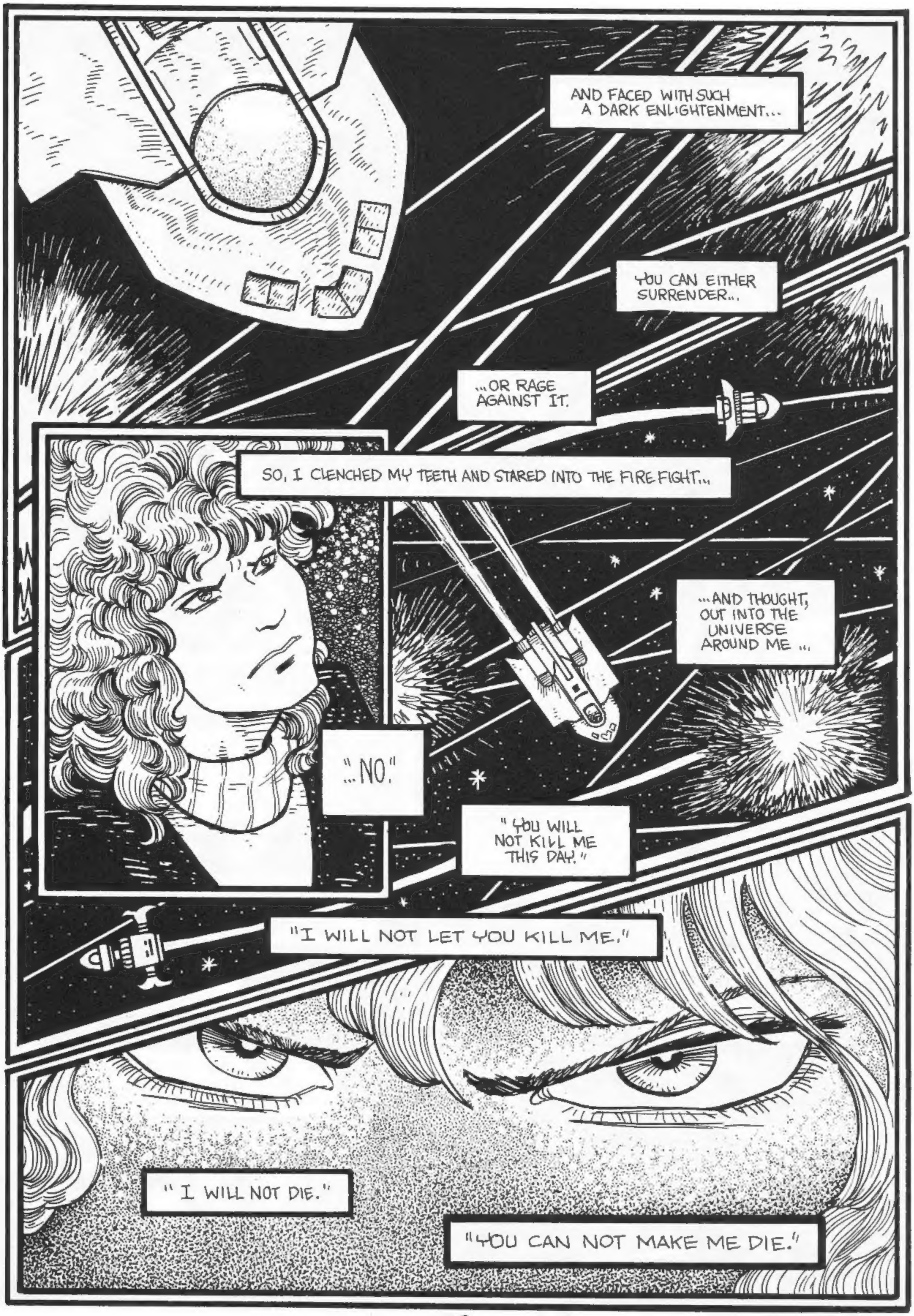
...WHERE PEOPLE COULD BREATHE THE AIR,

...STAND IN THE RAIN.

HE WAS SO SURE THAT THE BONO KIRO COULD HELP EARTH...
...THAT HE CLOSED HIS EARS TO THE WHISPERS OF THINGS GOING WRONG.
SO MANY THINGS THAT HE SHOULD HAVE NOTICED.
EVEN WITH THE BONO KIRO COVERING THEIR TRACKS, THERE HAD TO BE RUMORS...
...ABOUT WHAT REALLY HAPPENED WHEN THE BONO KIRO EMPTIED OUR PRISONS FOR TULSAR SERVANTS.
ABOUT HOW, UNLIKE MR. TAYLOR WHO WAS KEPT ON BACK ON EARTH, MOST WERE SENT INTO BATTLE AS SUICIDE TROOPS TO BUFFER THE BONO KIRO'S MORE SKILLED VROOL FIGHTERS.
AND THEN THERE WERE THE UNEXPLAINED DISAPPEARANCES...
...OR ACCIDENTAL DEATHS...
...OF THOSE WHO SPOKE OUT AGAINST NARZ OR THE BONO KIRIAN GOVERNMENT.
AND, OF COURSE, HOW COULD HE NOT NOTICE THE SLOW...
...BUT STEADY GROWTH OF NARZ'S CONTROL OVER EACH AND EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE ON EARTH?
YET STILL HE DID NOT SEEM TO REALIZE WHAT WAS HAPPENING, UNTIL NEAR THE END.
BUT I SUPPOSE THAT THE EASIEST PEOPLE TO DECIEVE ARE THOSE WHO NEED TO BELIEVE.

OH, LOOK,
...I MADE A RHYME.
BUT, BACK TO THE WANDERING STAR.
WE DOVE INTO THE BATTLE ...
...BLIND ...
...HANDICAPPED ...
...BUT DETERMINED TO GET TO THE ALLIANCE.


LOOKING INTO THAT GREAT MASS OF INSANITY, I ONCE AGAIN HEARD NARZ'S WORDS TO ME.
"DESTRUCTION," HE HAD SAID WITH A WOLF-SMILE...
..." IS THE WAY OF THE UNIVERSE."
AND HERE, IN THE FIELDS OF DEATH...
...HOW COULD I ARGUE?
AS THE BATTLE SWIRLED AROUND US...
...THE UNIVERSE SEEMED LIKE SOME MINDLESS, MERCILESS MACHINE.
OUT HERE...
...DEATH WAS THE WAY OF THE UNIVERSE, AND DEATH DID NOT CARE WHO YOU WERE.
IT DID NOT CARE IF YOU WERE SINNER OR SAINT..
...KING OR FOOL.
IT DID NOT CARE ABOUT YOUR VICTORIES, OR YOUR HOPES, OR YOUR DREAMS, OR YOUR LOVES.
TO DEATH...
...NONE OF THAT MATTERS.



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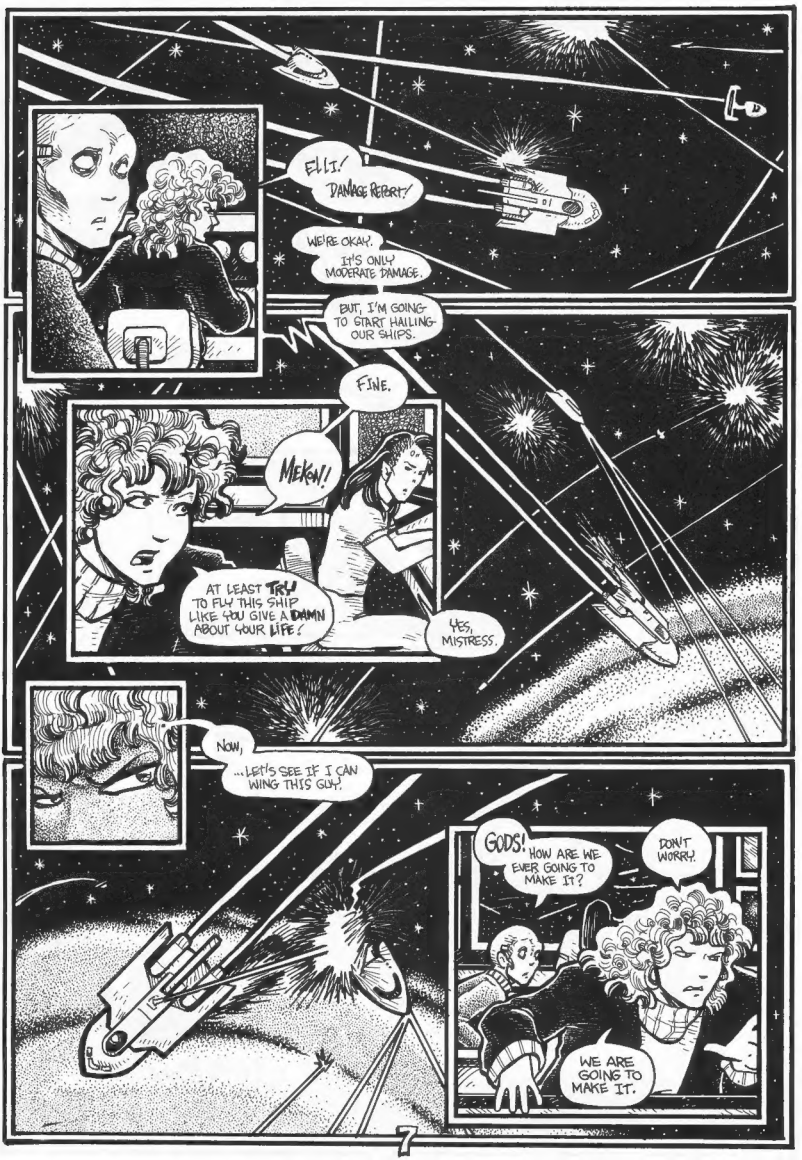
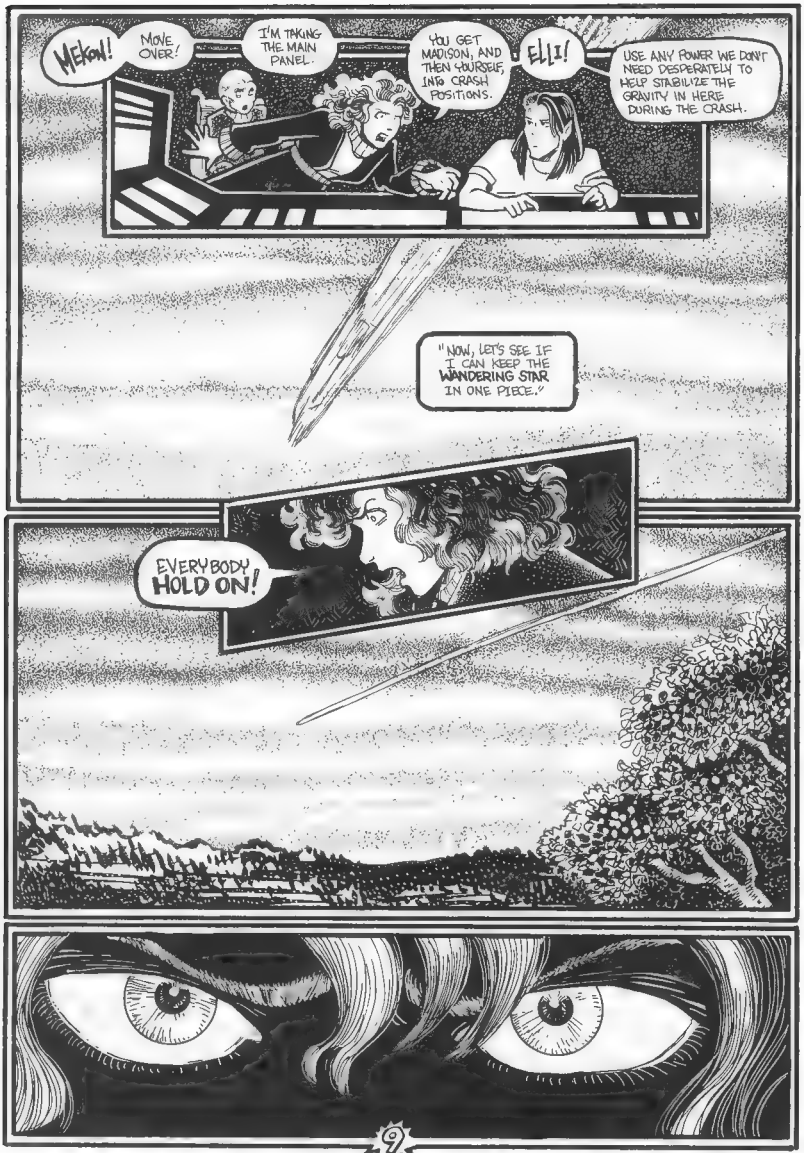

ELI! DAMAGE REPORT!
WE'RE OKAY. IT'S ONLY MODERATE DAMAGE.
BUT, I'M GOING TO START HAILING OUR SHIPS.
FINE.
MEKON!
AT LEAST TRY TO FLY THIS SHIP LIKE YOU GIVE A DAMN ABOUT YOUR LIFE!
YES, MISTRESS.
NOW, ...LET'S SEE IF I CAN WING THIS GUY!
GODS! HOW ARE WE EVER GOING TO MAKE IT?
DON'T WORRY.
WE ARE GOING TO MAKE IT.

I WISH I HAD YOUR FAITH.
WHO SAID I HAD FAITH?
I WON'T LET US NOT MAKE IT.
CASANDRA!
THEY'VE HIT ONE OF OUR ENGINES!
...I...
...WE...
WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO PULL OUT OF THIS PLANET'S GRAVITY!
DAMMIT!


MEKON!
MOVE OVER!
I'M TAKING THE MAIN PANEL.
YOU GET MADISON, AND THEN YOURSELF, INTO CRASH POSITIONS.
ELI!
USE ANY POWER WE DON'T NEED DESPERATELY TO HELP STABILIZE THE GRAVITY IN HERE DURING THE CRASH.
"NOW, LET'S SEE IF I CAN KEEP THE WANDERING STAR IN ONE PIECE."
EVERYBODY HOLD ON!

HMM MM?
what?
CASI?

Well...
...SEEMS THAT GRAIKOR WAS RIGHT WHEN HE SAID THAT I'D FIND YOU UP HERE.
DAVID?
WI, CASI.
DAVID, I...
...HAD THIS HORRIBLE DREAM...
THERE WAS A WAR...
...AND...
...AND YOU AND GRAI...
CASI.

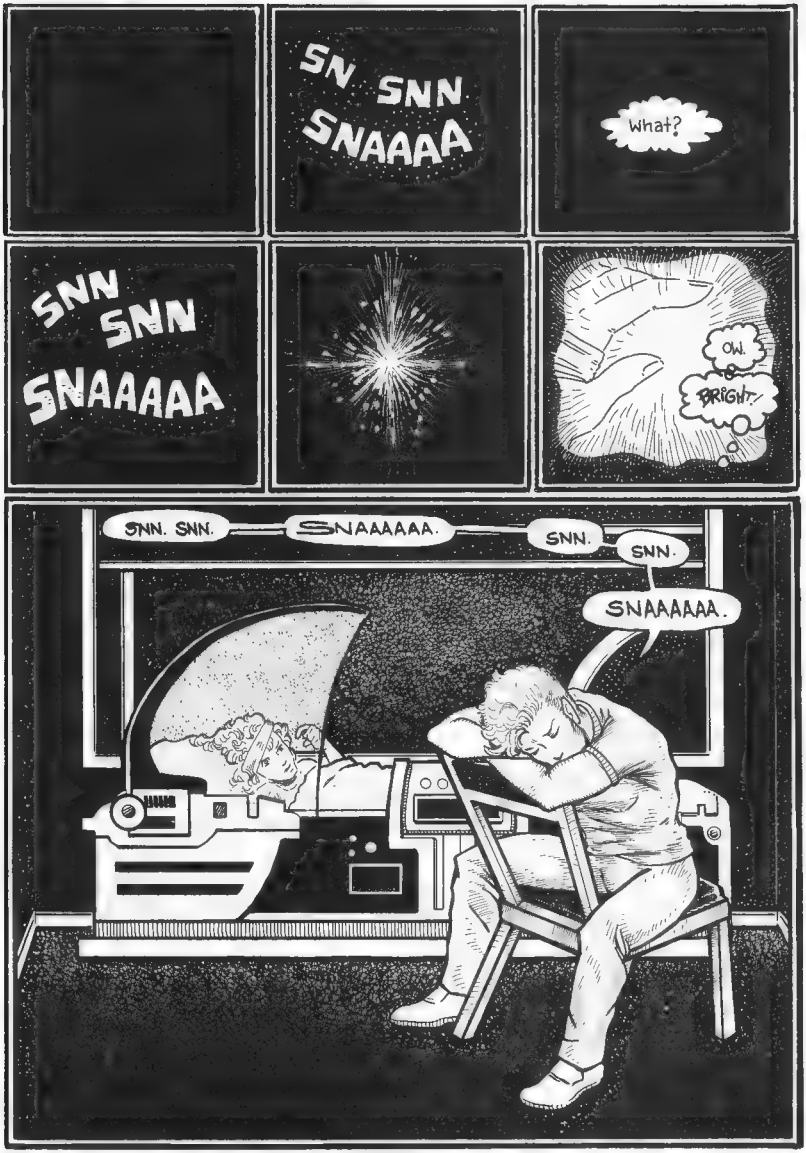
RUMMBLE!
EEEE

YOU CANNOT FIGHT THE UNIIIVERSS
SSSURRENDERRR
CASSSANDRA!
NO. SHE WILL NOT.
YOU'RE A LIE.
A TWISTED BIT OF LOOKING GLASS.
SSRAAAK!

DEEESTRUCTION!
DEEESTRUCTION!
Heh! Heh! Heh!
It IS THE EVERYTHING.
It IS THE ALL.
WHAT ARE YOU, CAESSSANDRA, TO THEEE UNIIVERSE?
WHAT CAN ONE LITTLE GIRL DO TO CHANGE ANYTHING?
SSSSURRENDER
ACCEPT IT.
EMBRACE...
DO THEEE HOPELESSSNESSS.
NO.

NO!
YOU'VE DESTROYED EVERYTHING IN MY LIFE!
YOU WILL NOT DESTROY ME!
NEVER!
EEEEEE

EEEE


SN SNN SNAAAA
What?
SNN SNN SNAAAAA
OW.
BRIGHT?
SNN. SNN.
SNAAAAAA.
SNN.
SNN.
SNAAAAAA.

Joey?
S'N'N
Wha..?
CREAK
WHAAA!
CRASH!
OW.
Um... CAST... HI.
JOEY! WHERE AM I?
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
WHERE'S MADISON? AND MEKON AND ELLI?
IS EVERYBODY ALL -
Whoa!
FREEZE THAT FRAME!
I WILL ANSWER ALL OF YOUR QUESTIONS.
LET'S SEE...
FIRST - YOU'RE ON TEKEL. THAT'S A PLANET IN MACHAVIA'S SYSTEM. AND THIS IS A HOSPITAL, WHERE THE IDEA IS THAT YOU HEAL UP AND GET ALL BETTER.
MADISON IS FINE. MEKON'S UPSTAIRS WITH A FEW DOCTORS TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET THAT THING OUT OF HIS HEAD.
THE WANDERING STAR'S A BIT BANGED UP, BUT ELLI'S HAVING A WONDERFUL TIME GIVING THE REPAIR-PEOPLE A HORRIBLE TIME.
I THINK THAT'S EVERYTHING. IS THAT ENOUGH INFORMATION, MI' LADY?
NO.
WHAT'S ALL THIS STUFF I'M HOOKED UP TO?

HMM...
..LET'S SEE,
LOOK'S TO ME LIKE A BUNCH OF WEIRD MEDICAL EQUIPMENT.
I LIKE THE GOWN, THO.
OH, HAH, HAH.
SO,
..HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN THAT CHAIR?
OH—
CENTURIES.
BUT, HEY, I FIGURED...
...SOMEBODY NEEDED TA DUST YOU OFF NOW AND AGAIN.
WELL, THANKS JUST BUNCHES, JOEY.
SO, HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO BE HOOKED UP TO THE WEIRD MEDICAL EQUIPMENT?
UM...
...WELL...
...THE DOCS SAY TWO WEEKS.
WHAT? NO WAY!
WHERE'S MADISON?
I CAN'T BE IN HERE TWO WEEKS!
UM...
...CAST...
I...
...DON'T KNOW WHERE MADISON IS.

SO~ GO FIND HIM.
CASI.
IT'S JUST A COUPLA OF WEEKS.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
CASI, MADISON WON'T COME HERE.
WHAT?
CASI..
...HE TOLD ME THAT HE'D RATHER HAVE YOU HERE FOR TWO WEEKS,
.. AND SAFE.
THAN WELL,
AND OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF A BATTLE.
WHAT!
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
GO FIND HIM! I'LL TALK HIM OUT OF THIS CRAZINESS.
CASI.
HE WON'T COME.
TRUST ME WHEN I TELL YOU HE'S MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT HE WON'T DISCUSS THIS WITH YOU.
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
THIS IS JUST GREAT!
PEACH!
SPLENDTACULAR!
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING TO ME!
YOU KNOW, I THINK I'M GONNA HIT THE CAFETERIA.
CAN I GET YOU SOMETHING?

Food?
This
...is a NIGHTMARE

Drink?
SIGH

Alright

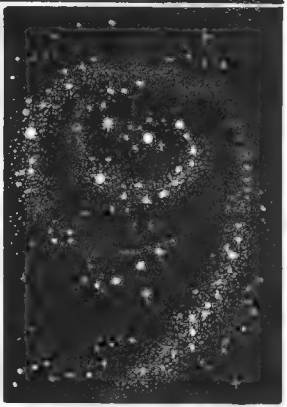
Well, I'm gonna wander down to the cafeteria.
Bring me a juice.
Okey Dokey, Casa-Roni.

Sigh.

Great.
Splendiacular.
Here I am...
...all set to take on the universe..
...and I can't get out of the hospital

Well, Mr. Universe.
Don't start thinking you're getting off easy!

I'll be back.



See 422

Dear Teri,

SIRIUSLY?

As much as I hate having you not publish your own stuff, I would have hated it even more if WANDERING STAR had to call it quits for business reasons. So, I guess I'm happy you found a publisher who'll take you away from the business side and let you concentrate on the artistic side. And if this allows you to go monthly with WANDERING STAR (and DARKLIGHT?), well far be it from me to complain about that. Now that you mention it, there was something different about the cover to issue #11... The Pen & Ink logo was a different color. Oh, and there were a lot less visible stars. But seriously, I like it... a lot! The expression and character of your drawings (especially your characters' faces) is amazing. A definite strength in your work. As far as the story goes, I continue to enjoy the drama and emotion of each page, each panel. The pacing of the story is just right–the characters are intelligent and believable–the plot and storyline are exciting. Yep, WANDERING STAR continues to be one of the best comics published. As far as chestnuts go, the only thing I know about them is to be careful when you're around open fires lest your chestnuts be roasted and your nose be nipped by some guy named Jack Frost. Oh, I did get my Oliver for Prez button–Meow. What platform is he running on? Will he be in any of the debates? How did he do in the Iowa and New Hampshire primaries? Has he chosen a running mate? Anyway, thanks for the button. Well, that's about it this time `round. Until May...

Best Regards,
Craig T. Powell
Salt Lake City, UT

P.S. If you haven't checked out Mark Crilley's AKIKO ON THE PLANET SMOO yet, do so now–it's charming–Siriusly.

Hi'yaz Craig,

Chestnuts! That's right, gosh darn it! I still don't know how to cook the things and I have a fireplace now, and Christmas will be here in less than five months! Aaah! I spent quite a bit of time trying to find out how to roast them infuriating little nuts in December, and I'm starting to think it's all been a huge practical joke, begun when they wrote that darn lyric in that @#% song. And only now do we find out nobody has ever, in the history of mankind, roasted chestnuts over an open fire. The song was probably written in Los Angeles. As for Oliver, he's still keeping a low profile after that scandal with the aspiring model. And, yep. AKIKO's pretty darn cool. But Siriusly, are ya surprised?

Dear Teri Sue,

I'm not sure where to start. I suppose the first thing I should say is, "CONGRATULATIONS!" Moving WS to Sirius is a big step, but it's one I'm certain will benefit you, WS, and your humble followers out here in the wilds of fandom. (Say "hi!" to Joe Linsner for me. I met him briefly "back in the day" before he was somebody. We spoke a little about working together on a comics project, but at the time I was still in school, dealing with my family (which didn't care for the idea of me working in comics), and Joe was ready to turn "pro." I haven't even seen him in almost ten years (which isn't so bad, really, because I think I still owe him a couple of bucks. You don't need to mention that to him, do you?). Anyway... You've made a really important move here, Teri, and while I'm happy for you, I'm also saddened by it. You see, whether or not you wanted to be one, you (along with the others like me). I'm a poor schlub with some ideas in his head who was hoping to make it as a self-publisher. You were a poor schlub with some ideas who was actually making it (with, I'm sure, mountains of effort and heartbreak and sweat and blood and grief and pain) as a self-publisher. Like it or not, you became a role model. Now, Jeff Smith is at IMAGE, you're at SIRIUS. I doubt that Dave Sim or Terry Moore are going anywhere , but still... What does this "shuffling about" mean for the rest of us poor schlubs out there? What does it say about the future of self-publishing, about the future of the industry itself? Do any of us stand a chance of even playing this game of "distributor roulette," of seeing our stories reach a readership larger than our immediate circles of friends? These are tough questions, Teri, believe me, I don't expect you to be able to answer any of them. I just thought that, as a would-be follower your footsteps, I should take a moment to ask them. To let you know that your work has influenced me, and to thank you for that. Whew! Am I glad that's off my chest! On to some lighter things... Now that you're connected with a New Jersey-based publisher, does this mean that we WS fans on the east coast will actually get the chance to meet you face to face? It'd be really keen if we could! (And if you need a place to crash for the night, there's always our sofabed downstairs... And our coffeemaker works, too!) Now that the starscapes are gone from the covers, does the possibility exist for cover art from some "guest artist"? Drew Hayes' Cassandra looked pretty cool, and it would be interesting to see other interpretations of WS charac-

ters, too! Oh, well. It's getting late, and I really should get to bed, so that I can get up in the morning and go to my "real" job. I hope the first half of this letter doesn't bum you out or anything. That really wasn't my intent. I wish you all the best in your dealing with Sirius, and look forward to seeing the completion of WS, as well as seeing the beginning of DARK-LIGHT. AAAALLLLLLLLLLLLL-Righty then! Time to say "toodles"!

Toodles,
Christopher J. Tully
Woodbury, NY

Howdy, Christopher,

Let's take the Sirius stuff first, shall we? When I decided to move to Sirius, one of the biggest things that weighed on my mind, was what kind of message this might send to aspiring self-publishers. Had it just been me making this change, it wouldn't have been a problem, I'm sure, but I wasn't the only one. And it seemed like everybody who'd had any success at all at self-publishing were signing with a publisher, all at basically the same time. Now, I don't know what the reasons were for the rest of my buds in the self-publishing biz, but I made the change because over the last three years it had become brutally clear to me that I wasn't cut out for the business side of publishing comics. Sure, I could draw pretty pictures and put words in the mouths of characters that sounded okay, but that's not enough to keep your head above water financially. My goal in trying self-publishing was basically to tell the stories I wanted to tell, free of the restrictions most publisher impose upon their creators. I wanted complete and total creative freedom. And when Pen & Ink started to sink, I got incredibly lucky. Incredibly. I found Sirius. A company dedicated to allowing its creators to follow whatever their vision was, unobstructed. And, who also just happened to have a masterful sense of the business world. I don't know about you, but that struck me as a killer combination. I don't think our industry has ever seen the like of it before. Now, as for self-publishing, it's still there. That doesn't mean it's a breeze to do. Nah. Like any new business, the first three orr four years are going to be a nightmare. That's just the way it is. But I still believe very strongly, that if you have a good story to tell, a head for business, and the determination to survive those first few years, well, heck! How can you not succeed? Self-publishing isn't dead, it's just waiting for the next wave of creators to step into the limelight. Now, on to the fun stuff...

Am I going to start making appearances on the east coast? Yep, so pull out the sofabed and heat up the water in the coffeemaker, Christopher, 'cuz me and Drew and Robb and Larry and Joe and Brenda and Dark One and all the rest of the gang are coming to stay at YOUR house! Bwah hah hah hah hah! You do have insurance on your home, right? And, yes, there is the possibility of guest artists doing covers for WANDERING STAR in the future, but Drew Hayes?? Do you have any idea what a terrifying concept that is? I mean, we're talking DREW HAYES here, the POISON ELVES man. Can you imagine what he'd come up with???? Brrrrr! Okay, that's everything this ish. Go write me a weird letter. I'm waiting.

Wandering Star

Below:
"Cassandra Andrews" by Chuck Haspel. WHOA, is he a great artist or what?

Missing Children
Help Center

410 Ware Blvd., Suite 400
Tampa, FL 33619
(813) 623-KIDS
1-800-USA-KIDS
(Nationwide)

JENNIFER A CLARK

Endangered runaway

Missing: 11/30/95 **Age Now:** 15 Yr
Missing From: FRESNO, CA
Birth: 09/11/80 **Age Disap.:** 15 Yr
Sex: F **Race:** WHITE
Height: 5'2" **Weight:** 125 lbs
Hair: BLONDE **Eyes:** GREEN

Id Info: NCIC#M-878446226. Scars on both large toes. Both thumbs are crooked.

Circum: Jennifer went to school on 11/30/95, but cut her last class. She was later seen 2 blocks from her home.

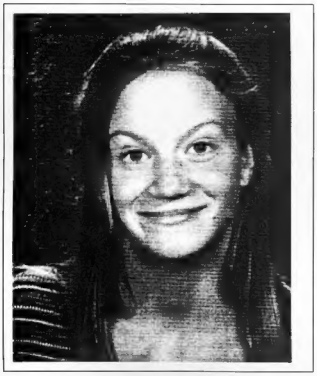
ANYONE HAVING INFORMATION SHOULD CONTACT
Missing Children HELP Center
1-800-USA-KIDS
OR
FRESNO POLICE DEPT.,FRESNO, CALIFORNIA.
209/498-1414

Poster ver 2.0, Pegasus Imaging Corp

Missing Children
Help Center
National Missing Children Division
National Child Safety Council
410 Ware Boulevard, Suite 400
Tampa, Florida 33619

AMANDA GREINER

Missing Juvenile



AMANDA GREINER

Missing:	01/23/96	**Age Now:**	15
Missing From:	KERRVILLE, TX	**Age Disap.:**	15
Birth:	09/04/80	**Race:**	White
Sex:	Female	**Eyes:**	Blue
Height:	5' 9"	**Weight:**	125 lbs.
Hair:	Straight Blond		

ID Info: BRACES ON TOP. TEETH BESIDE TOP TEETH ARE MISSING.
NCIC # M-898771252

Circum: AMANDA WAS STRESSED OUT AND LEFT HOME ON 1/23/96. SHE HAS CALLED A FRIEND FROM FLORIDA.

ANYONE HAVING INFORMATION SHOULD CONTACT:
Missing Children...HELP Center at 1-800-USA-KIDS
OR
KERRVILLE PD
600 MAIN ST SGT SATCHEL
KERRVILLE, TX 7-8028 (210) 257-8181

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REALITY CHECK!™

#1

HEY-NYA! I'M CATREECE! READ MY COMIC AND FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN AN AVERAGE HOUSECAT LOGS ON TO THE VIRTUAL INTERNET! REALITY CHECK! IT'S A NEW ON-GOING SERIES CREATED BY YOUR USER FRIENDLY PALS AT TAVICAT!

RC! IN 24 BIT COLOR!

MONTHLY!

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